

Appl. No. : 10/072,538
Filed : February 8, 2002

REMARKS

The present Amendment is responsive to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated August 11, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner pointing out the lack of antecedent basis in Claim 30 and indicating the allowability of Claim 43 if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants disagree with the propriety of the outstanding prior art rejections. However, in view of the amendments made herein which moot the rejections and facilitate issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have no occasion to comment on the merits of those rejections.

Amended Claims

In reliance upon this indication, Applicants have amended Claim 21 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 43 and intervening Claim 42. Claim 21 has additionally been amended to include the subject matter of dependant Claim 41, which amendment appeared upon review to be desirable to provide antecedent basis for the subject matter of Claims 42 and 43.

Claims 23-40 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 21. Claims 23-40 are each patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 21 is patentable, and are also patentable for the unique combination of features that each claim recites.

Applicants have amended Claim 30 to correct its dependency from a previously cancelled claim and to reflect the antecedent basis provided in Claim 21 from which it now depends.

Claims 1 through 20 and 41 through 43 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Accordingly, Claims 21 and 23-40 are pending for consideration. In accordance with the Examiner's comments, Applicants believe that the present Amendments have placed this application in a condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Claims 21 and 23-40 remain pending for consideration. Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance. Applicants have endeavored to respond to each of the issues raised by the Examiner. However, if there remain any unresolved issues that could be resolved via a telephone conference, Applicants invite the

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Examiner to initiate the same with Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/22/04

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